

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

Minutes of the 208th Meeting

May 3, 2011

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Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Minutes of the 208th Meeting
(Approved at the 209th Meeting)

National Great Rivers Museum
2 Lock and Dam Way
Alton, IL 62002

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

208-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

At 9:15 a.m., pursuant to the Call to Order of Chair Rosenthal, the meeting began.

Chair Rosenthal read the roll call.

Members present: George Covington, Donnie Dann, Ronald Flemal, Richard Keating, William McClain, Mare Payne, Jill Riddell, Lauren Rosenthal, and David Thomas.

Members absent: None.

Others present: Steven Byers, Bob Edgin, Stefanie Ervin, Ray Geroff, Randy Heidorn, Russell Heinrichs, Tom Lerczak, Angella Moorehouse, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Debbie Reider, Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca, and Mary Kay Solecki, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); John Rogner, Assistant Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Dr. Jim Herkert, Marty Kemper, Don McFall, and Diane Tecic, Office of Resource Conservation (ORC), IDNR; Kathy Davis, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning (OREP), IDNR; Anne Mankowski, Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB); Thomas Emerson, Illinois State Archaeological Society and INPC Advisor; Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) representing the proposed addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and proposed Markham Prairie – East Nature Preserve; Ralph Buettner, Carl DauBach, Pen DauBach, Dave Eustis, Joann Fricke, and Mike Fricke representing the proposed White Rock Land and Water Reserve and the proposed White Rock Nature Preserve; Mary Lou Flemal; Jim Payne.

Chair Rosenthal thanked Debbie Newman for leading the field trip at Bohm Woods Nature Preserve on May 2, 2011.

Chair Rosenthal stated that Deborah Stone has taken a position with Cook County as the Director of the Department of the Environment and Sustainability.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the leadership of, and contributions made by Deborah Stone as its Executive Director. Deborah will be remembered for her advocacy, problem solving and ability to develop and implement sound conservation policy within the constraints of austere fiscal policy. Her leadership was critical during Illinois' historic budgetary period. During her tenure from 2006 to 2011, 24 new nature preserves, 29 new land

and water reserves and numerous additions to existing sites were added. In total, the Nature Preserves system grew by over 13,500 acres under her leadership. Her many accomplishments will be an ongoing tribute to the Commission for years to come. Deborah's continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission's programs will always be greatly appreciated while her legacy of land protection will continue for generations of Illinoisans.

(Resolution 2136)

208-2) Adoption of Agenda

Item 11 will be presented after Item 8.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Payne, and carried that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

208-3) Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2011, and the 207th Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2011

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Keating, and carried that the Special Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2011, be approved.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Covington, and carried that the 207th Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2011, be approved.

Chair Rosenthal reported that at the 207th Meeting of the INPC, held on February 9, 2011, at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Headquarters, Springfield, legal protection was completed by the Commission for 11 tracts of land totaling 1,923.665 acres. Of these, three areas totaling 109.155 acres are owned by private individuals or for profit or not-for-profit corporations who donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. This private land was permanently preserved without further acquisition of the land by the state. The dollar value of the tracts of private land is \$302,375 based on conservative estimates of the fair market value of the land. Private land protected without state acquisition at INPC's 207th Meeting were an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Cook County; Hildy Prairie, Grundy County; and an addition to Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve, Kankakee County. Protection of this land came about because the Commission has eight staff in the field working with private landowners. There are now 355 dedicated nature preserves in 83 counties totaling 49,741.765 acres and 162 land and water reserves in 66 counties totaling 46,236.439 acres.

208-4) 2011 Meeting Schedule

September 20, 2011 – Lost Valley Visitor Center, Richmond

208-5) INPC Staff Report

Jenny Skufca presented the INPC staff report attached as Exhibit A.

Ms. Skufca stated that the photo exhibit will be on display at Lost Valley Visitor Center in September, 2011. The photo exhibit was created to commemorate the 500th site brought into the

INPC system. The exhibit is then scheduled to go to the Forest Preserve District of Will County and the Cache River Visitor Center which takes the exhibit through the summer of 2012.

She stated that six new Class III groundwater petition packets have been submitted since May, 2011. There are now 15 nature preserves that are protected under the Class III special resource groundwater classification. The next six sites that are being processed are George B. Fell Nature Preserve, Spring Grove Fen Nature Preserve, Goose Lake Prairie Nature Preserve, Trout Park Nature Preserve, Cotton Creek Marsh Nature Preserve, and Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve. The petitions have to be reviewed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Ms. Skufca updated the Commission on two threat items. One threat deals with Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve. The IEPA submitted a referral to the Illinois Attorney General (IAG) after it was discovered that 50,000 tons of salt was piled adjacent to the Nature Preserve. An order was entered in the Circuit Court of Cook County on February 25, 2011, stipulating that Bluff City Materials must move the salt to a paved area and maintain a cover. Bluff City Materials must also build a permanent salt storage facility that will keep the product from being dispersed by wind or water. Bluff City Materials has a ten-year contract with Detroit Salt Company.

The second threat deals with Carpenter Park Nature Preserve vandalism. Graffiti was spray painted on the sandstone rock. The vandals have now been identified.

Ms. Skufca stated that final dedication was conferred for Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve at the 206th Meeting. John Nelson has continued to monitor and advise the Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve work group. This work group was organized by the Land Conservancy of McHenry County to plan and implement a large scale restoration of the site. An environmental contractor and other volunteers have been conducting tree and brush clearing during the winter and spring. Whooping cranes stopped at this site in March, 2011. The wetland and wet prairie restorations are assisting in a remarkably quick comeback to former migration routes for this federally endangered species.

Randy Heidorn presented Bob Edgin, Angella Moorehouse, and Kim Roman with pins to commemorate 15 years of service. Steven Byers and John Nelson were presented pins to commemorate 20 years of service. Mary Kay Solecki was presented a plaque and pin commemorating 25 years of service.

Chair Rosenthal thanked staff for their commitment and dedication to the INPC.

208-6) IDNR Staff Report

Don McFall presented the IDNR staff report attached as Exhibit B.

208-7) Endangered Species Protection Board Report

Anne Mankowski presented the ESPB report attached as Exhibit C.

Chair Rosenthal stated that the registration agreements for today's land and water reserve presentation have been signed and executed by the landowners as required by administrative rule.

208-8) Monroe Co. – White Rock Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Debbie Newman presented a proposal on behalf of Clifftop NFP (Conserving Lands in Farm, Forest, Talus or Prairie, Not For Profit), and Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. for registration of White Rock Land and Water Reserve. The proposed White Rock Land and Water Reserve is a 168-acre site in the Mississippi River bluff corridor of southwestern Illinois and is located within the Bluff Corridor/Karst Conservation Opportunity Area and the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. Protection of this site supports several campaigns identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), including the Forests, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship campaigns. The site consists of two acres of grade B limestone glade intermingled with 166 acres of grade C mature second growth dry-mesic, mesic, and dry upland forest. The White Rock site encompasses approximately 50 acres of the Potato Hill Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site (#0200). The site contains populations of the state-threatened Missouri coneflower (*Rudbeckia missouriensis*), and the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*). This site was previously registered in 2005 by Columbia Quarry Company as the term-limited Columbia Quarry-White Rock Land and Water Reserve. In December 2010, two southwestern Illinois conservation organizations purchased the site, with funding from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, the Grand Victoria Foundation, and the State Wildlife Grant program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ms. Newman stated that easements have been granted to allow access to the owners' properties. Allowable uses of the site include hiking, hunting, and maintenance of the existing trails. ATV use will be allowed for stewardship and harvesting of deer during the hunting season. Cedar and maple harvest will be allowed with an approved management plan. If the tree harvest is sold, the funds generated will be restricted to the stewardship and management for the site. Other funding opportunities for stewardship of the site were discussed. Ms. Newman stated that there is a buried AT&T fiber optic cable that runs through the property which will actually serve as a fire break.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of White Rock in Monroe County as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 8 of the Agenda for the 208th Meeting.

(Resolution 2137)

208-9) Cook Co. – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 11)

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for preliminary approval for dedication of two lots (approximately 0.96 acres) as an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed addition lies just south of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Markham and lies within the boundaries of the INAI site (#400) and the registry of National Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Elements of grade A

mesic sand prairie occur within the proposed addition and provides suitable habitat for expansion of a federally listed plant species located nearby. Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan for this site, tenets of good preserve design, the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan, and elements of the IWAP; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition acres will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 200.316 to 201.276 acres and consolidates the long-standing land protection efforts in the area south of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve between 157th Street and 159th Street.

It was moved by Riddell, seconded by Covington, and carried, with Dann and Thomas abstaining, that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve in Cook County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 208th Meeting.

(Resolution 2138)

208-10) Cook Co. – Markham Prairie – East Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of TNC for preliminary approval for dedication of Markham Prairie – East (consisting of 121 lots totaling 32.2 acres) as an Illinois nature preserve. Platted, but unbuilt roads and nine privately-owned lots are not included in the proposal. Markham Prairie – East is one of five prairies collectively referred to as the Indian Boundary Prairies located in southern Cook County in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The other prairies include Gensburg-Markham Prairie, Sundrop Prairie, Paintbrush Prairie, and Dropseed Prairie. Of the 508.1 acres of the Indian Boundary Prairies that have been included on the INAI, 385.76 acres have been dedicated as part of the Illinois Nature Preserves system. The proposed nature preserve encompasses much, but not all, of the Markham Prairie – East INAI site (INAI #424). The INAI recognized the site for grade A and B mesic prairie and grade B sedge meadow. Staff of TNC now recognizes these communities as grade C mesic prairie and grade B/C wet prairie (as opposed to grade B sedge meadow) and attribute the decline in quality to intrusions to the site and until recently lack of management. Dedication of this site is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Site Design Plan prepared for the Indian Boundary Prairies by TNC and will protect mesic prairie and wet prairie/sedge meadow that are considered conservation priorities by the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan. TNC is committed to renewed efforts to manage the site. Dedication of Markham Prairie – East also supports elements of the IWAP; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality prairie communities.

Commissioner Dann asked if there would be any impact to this site from the construction of the interchange between I-57 and I-294.

Mr. Byers stated that it will not affect any of the area that has been identified as part of the nature preserve system. There are some parcels to the north of Gensburg-Markham Prairie and Markham Prairie East that are owned by TNC that will be part of the footprint for that interchange.

Commissioner Riddell stated that she finds these additions to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve extremely gratifying. The tiny additions add up over time and aid the management of the entire site.

It was moved by Payne, seconded by Riddell, and carried, with Dann and Thomas abstaining, that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication for Markham Prairie – East in Cook County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 208th Meeting.

(Resolution 2139)

Chair Rosenthal thanked TNC for its hard work on this project.

208-11) Monroe Co. – White Rock Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 8)

Debbie Newman presented a proposal on behalf of Clifftop NFP, and Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. for preliminary approval for dedication of White Rock Nature Preserve. The proposed White Rock Nature Preserve is a 306.5-acre site in the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain within the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. It is also located within the Bluff Corridor/Karst COA and supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship campaigns. The site consists of five acres of grade A loess hill prairie, and two acres of grade B limestone glade intermingled with 299 acres of grade C mature second growth dry-mesic, mesic, and dry upland forest. The White Rock site encompasses approximately 47 acres of the Monroe City Hill Prairie INAI site (#0199). The site also contains populations of the state-threatened Missouri coneflower (*Rudbeckia missouriensis*), the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), and a state-threatened reptile. The proposed nature preserve was previously registered in 2005 by Columbia Quarry Company as the term-limited Columbia Quarry-White Rock Land and Water Reserve. In December 2010, two southwestern Illinois conservation organizations purchased the site, with funding from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, the Grand Victoria Foundation, and the State Wildlife Grant program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ms. Newman stated that the reserved rights for the site include a deer removal program during the firearm season and ATV use on existing trails for stewardship and deer retrieval. The landowners would also like to retain the right to do cedar and maple harvest with an approved management plan. If the tree harvest is sold, the funds generated will be restricted to the stewardship and management for the site. The landowners reserve the right to maintain existing trails and to add three more trails with the approval of the Commission. The landowners would also like to place a couple of benches along a trail. The trail system will utilize logging roads. The proposed nature preserve will be open to the public.

Commissioner Riddell stated that using the funds from a timber harvest for stewardship was a practical idea, but she would like for the Commission to note that this would not be setting a precedent for allowing harvesting of trees within a nature preserve. She asked if it would be possible to note this request to be consistent for the management plan for the site and is dictated by the need to remove the cedar and maple tress rather than the desire for the income derived from the sale of the timber.

Randy Heidorn stated that before the Commission would allow harvest of trees on a nature preserve, it would need to be specifically approved for the site by the Commission.

Chair Riddell asked if the landowners would still need to work with staff before doing a timber harvest or would the Commission be giving a blanket approval for a timber harvest at any time.

Ms. Newman stated that staff would be working with the landowners if a timber harvest were to occur. She stated that these trees are going to be removed in accordance with the management plan, and if it would be feasible to sell the timber, the funds would be used to pay for stewardship of the site. She stated that she would be overseeing any equipment that would be brought to the site to make sure the equipment is cleaned and nothing is done to damage the site.

Commissioner McClain stated that he wanted to compliment the work of all those involved in this project. He stated that to see what is happening in this area is a dream come true, and he is very happy to see it take place.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of White Rock in Monroe County as an Illinois nature preserve as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 208th Meeting.

(Resolution 2140)

Chair Rosenthal stated that the planning that has gone into the stewardship and management of the site was wonderful. She thanked those involved for their participation in this project, and the Commission looks forward to a continued relationship.

Ms. Newman introduced Carl and Pen DauBach. She stated that Mr. DauBach was the president of Clifftop. She also introduced Dave Eustis, Executive Director of the Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, and Joann Fricke and Ralph Bittner, members of the Clifftop Board.

Mr. DauBach thanked the Commission for approving White Rock Land and Water Reserve and for conveying preliminary approval for White Rock Nature Preserve. Clifftop became an organization at the request of local IDNR people. The entire purpose of this initiative, and future initiatives, was a strong local partnership based precisely on the IWAP blueprint. He stated that the reality was that the IDNR does not have the resources to do it all. They were willing to help because they own the land.

Dave Eustis thanked Ms. Newman for all her hard work.

208-12) Mason Co. – Buffer Addition to Sand Prairie Scrub Oak Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 10)

Tom Lerczak presented a proposal on behalf of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for final approval for dedication of 50 acres in two separate tracts (40 acres and 10 acres) as buffer addition to Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve. Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve (INAI # 732) is located approximately eight miles south of Havana in the Mason County Sand Areas Conservation Opportunity Area within the Illinois River Section of the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Natural Division. Both proposed nature preserve buffer tracts border the Nature Preserve, contain grade C and grade D dry sand forest with black oak (*Quercus velutina*) and blackjack oak (*Q. marilandica*) and old fields with components of sand prairie such as aromatic sumac (*Rhus aromatic*) and sand love grass (*Eragrostis trichodes*) with the potential for restoration. Four Species in Greatest Need of Conservation have been observed on the proposed buffer: regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*), state-threatened; northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), and field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). The proposed buffer addition serves as a necessary adjunct to the Nature Preserve by helping to protect high-quality areas from the effects of nearby row-crop agriculture and provides additional area for natural community restoration. Dedication of this buffer addition will help implement the IWAP by supporting the following priority action campaigns: Farmland and Prairie, Invasive Species, Forest, and Land and Water Stewardship. Dedication of this buffer addition will increase the number of protected acres at Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve to 1,514.75 acres. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 207th Meeting in February, 2011 (Resolution 2121).

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Sand Prairie Scrub Oak Nature Preserve in Mason County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 208th Meeting.

(Resolution 2141)

208-13) McHenry Co. – Sweetwater Creek Addition and Buffer Addition to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

John Nelson presented a proposal on behalf of Robert and Maggie Bailey for final approval for dedication of approximately 28.8 acres of land to be known as the Sweetwater Creek addition (24.1 acres) and buffer (4.7 acres) to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve addition and buffer consists of a large, high-quality relict sedge meadow with elements of wet prairie and fen wetland indicator plant species. The proposed addition and buffer is within the Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI site and is located within a ground-watershed that has been designated a Class III Special Resource Groundwater by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Pollution Control Board. The Boone Creek Fen and Seep is a 465-acre INAI

site (#1015) representing one of the finest examples of graminoid fen and calcareous seep wetlands within the State. The site is also located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Dedication will also help protect a known population of a state-threatened flower. The sedge meadow wetlands offer an excellent opportunity to further restore the wetland system that occurs on the valley floor along Boone Creek. The relatively intact groundwater system that sustains the Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI site is a key element to the successful restoration of the entire site. This dedication proposal is consistent with the long-term goal to protect as much of the Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI site as possible through the formation of a macro-preserve of privately owned lands. If approved, Maggie and Robert Bailey would become the seventh landowner to enroll land into this macro-preserve complex. If approved, the Sweetwater Creek addition and buffer will increase the acreage of legally protected lands to 133.1 acres. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206th Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2107).

Mr. Nelson stated that there had been a slight revision to the legal description from the one presented for preliminary approval. The western boundary of the addition has been moved a few feet to the east. This change has reduced the size of the dedication by .2 acres.

He stated that there have also been some changes made to the dedication document. Under the Act, the Commission has the flexibility to customize a dedication agreement. The Baileys wanted the dedication agreement to reference the proposal that was approved at the 206th Meeting, and that has been inserted. They also wanted to have the dedication document reference the use of an existing horse trail that was located in the buffer. The horse trail is used by outside parties, but it is a very limited use. The landowner does have the right to prohibit that use in the future. The document also references the use of a primitive trail in the proposed addition to the Nature Preserve. The most significant change to the dedication agreement was the removal of the standard language regarding the taking and the recovery of any share of proceeds from the sale or the conversion of the property by the INPC. He stated that he made it very clear to the Baileys that with the removal of that language and in the unlikely event that would happen, the INPC would take legal steps to secure whatever proceeds were rightly available.

Randy Heidorn stated that the language that was removed lays out procedures for evaluating the property with regard to the change in the value of the property as a result of a dedication or conservation easement.

Commissioner Covington stated that approximately 25 years ago the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) ruled that in order to take a charitable contribution deduction for the donation of a conservation easement there has to be language that says that it can only be extinguished through court proceedings if the conservation purposes become impossible or impractical to achieve. If that happens and there is a subsequent sale or liquidation of the property, the easement holder gets a proportionate share of the proceeds. That proportionate share is measured by the appraised value at the time of the deduction. It was necessary to add the language to the INPC documents where there was a donation by a private landowner if the private landowner was expecting to get a charitable contribution deduction. Since it was really a requirement of the IRS, he did not have a problem with the removal of this language if the donor of the property for the nature preserve dedication understood that he or she was not entitled to take a deduction. He stated that it

needed to be made absolutely clear in writing to the landowner that they would not be getting a tax deduction because the dedication instrument would not qualify for that.

Mr. Nelson stated that the Baileys were not seeking the charitable deduction from the IRS, and they did not intend to have the land appraised.

Chair Rosenthal asked if something in writing has been obtained showing that the landowners understand that they would not qualify for the charitable deduction.

Mr. Nelson stated that he has verbally discussed the matter in great detail with the Baileys.

Commissioner Covington stated that there were other provisions of state law that would probably entitle the INPC to seek its share. There may be a situation where it might not be entitled if there was some sort of voluntary extinguishment of the dedication. He felt that would be a very unlikely occurrence and would be almost impossible to envision.

It was moved by Thomas, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of the Sweetwater Creek addition and buffer addition to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve in McHenry County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 208th Meeting.

(Resolution 2142)

After discussion, Chair Rosenthal directed staff to send a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Bailey to confirm the fact that they will not be seeking a charitable conservation deduction from the IRS.

Mr. Nelson stated that the language in the document was important, but it was a hard point for some landowners to understand. He stated that it had been his experience, after a detailed explanation, most landowners accept the language.

208-14) Kankakee Co. – Correction in Legal Description in the Registration Document for Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve

Kim Roman stated that a scrivener's error in the legal description for Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve was recently identified. The 62.2-acre Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve was registered at the 172nd meeting of the INPC (Resolution 1597) on August 20, 2001. The registration document was recorded in Kankakee County on August 29, 2001. The original 2001 registration document included the legal description obtained from the landowner's deed; however, one line of text was erroneously omitted. The corrected legal description will need to be approved by the Commission, attached to the original registration document, and re-recorded.

Ms. Roman stated that David Holman is a volunteer who has been reviewing legal descriptions for the nature preserves and land and water reserves. She stated that it was his plan to review the legal descriptions for all sites within the INPC's programs.

It was moved by Keating, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission approves the correction in the legal description, due to a scrivener's error, for Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve in Kankakee County, as presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 208th Meeting. The document will be re-recorded with the Kankakee County Recorder's Office.

(Resolution 2143)

208-15) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2012 Defense Proposals

Randy Heidorn presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF). The NAAF capital appropriation in FY2011 included \$225,000 to fund contractual natural area defense activities needed on properties included in one of the INPC's protection programs. From the FY2008, FY2009 and FY2010 NAAF capital appropriation, \$475,000, \$225,000 and \$225,000 was available respectively to defend natural areas statewide. NAAF defense projects that were begun in years prior to FY2011 and continued or completed during FY2011 include: funding the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) to collect and review groundwater data needed to assess impacts of proposed off-site development, threats or damages, prepare Class III Special Resource Groundwater petitions to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for INPC program sites and provide groundwater consulting services for the INPC staff. In FY 2010, there was a new contract for the continuation of the aforementioned groundwater consulting services and Class III delineations from the ISGS, and we are working on details of a way to implement better easement monitoring procedures for existing INPC program sites (\$130,000). Approximately \$230,000 of the four years of appropriation authority remains unassigned to specific projects. This appropriation authority remains available to address threats that may arise provided dollars are available within NAAF. Based on the FY2012 budget proposal, \$75,000 may be available for allocation to defense from this year's appropriation. Specific projects will be selected as needed but will likely include a continuation of the aforementioned groundwater data and consultation services at some level. Specific projects funded during FY2012 will be reported in May, 2012.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Payne, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission approves the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2012 defense project plan, as presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 208th Meeting.

(Resolution 2144)

208-16) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2012 Land Acquisition Proposals

The NAAF is administered by the IDNR with review and recommendation of land acquisition projects by the INPC. In FY2010, the IDNR identified 20 high priority tracts of land currently for sale within 16 natural areas. No new land acquisition was completed during FY2010 for FY2011. Depending on the final IDNR budget, tracts from this same approved list will be

considered for state acquisition in FY2012 if and when funds become available. All the proposed acquisition parcels are included on the INAI, and/or provide habitat for endangered or threatened species of animals or plants. The proposed acquisitions total 2,800 acres and would cost approximately \$12,600,000 to acquire. The proposed capital budget includes a total of \$1,000,000 for acquisition, preservation and stewardship from NAAF. A final decision on the amount of money, if any, to be used for land acquisition in FY2012 has not yet been made.

Don McFall stated that no land acquisition was anticipated in FY2012 due to the previously discussed budget difficulties. He stated that should any monies become available, Connie Waggoner, OREP, would work from the previously approved land acquisition list. With the assistance of grant funding and donations, the staff from OREP will continue to protect natural areas.

208-17) Public Comment Period

Steven Byers stated that the voters in Kane County approved an open space referendum that will raise \$30 million. The money will go toward acquisition and stewardship of areas in Kane County.

208-18) Other Business

Chair Rosenthal stated that there were four sets of minutes regarding land acquisition from closed meetings of the Commission included in the Commissioners' packets. The meeting dates were August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, and May 5, 2009. These meetings were closed in accordance with the Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase of real property. Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act provides that public bodies, "shall periodically, but no less than semi-annually, meet to review minutes of all closed sessions. At such meetings, a determination shall be made and reported in an open session that: 1. the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes, or 2. that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection."

Don McFall stated that it was the recommendation of the staff of the IDNR that the closed session minutes for August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, and May 5, 2009 remain closed because of the sensitive information relating to land acquisition.

It was moved by Riddell, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the closed session minutes from the August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, and May 5, 2009, meetings will remain confidential but will be reviewed semi-annually to ascertain the need to be kept confidential.

(Resolution 2145)

Chair Rosenthal stated that the Commission should form a nominating committee regarding the election of officers, advisors, and consultants. This committee would need to render its report at the September 20, 2011 meeting.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Riddell, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission authorizes Chair Rosenthal to appoint a nominating committee to deal with the election of officers, advisors, and consultants. The committee will present its report at the September 20, 2011 meeting.

A lunch break was taken from 11:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Commissioner Flemal stated that at the 207th INPC meeting the Chair was authorized to appoint a committee to look into the issue of stewardship for various sites. The Chair was authorized to appoint a number of individuals who have a specific connection to the Commission, but it left out the ability to appoint someone who was not connected to the Commission. He suggested that the resolution should be modified to authorize the composition of the committee to allow for the additional group of people.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Payne, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission authorizes the Chair to assemble a task force composed of Commissioners, Commission Advisors, Commission Consultants, and other conservation partners for the purpose of exploring methods of increasing resources for the support of the Commission's mission.

(Resolution 2146)

Chair Rosenthal stated that a task force meeting was held in Chicago. Many topics were discussed including the inadequacy of funding and other resources available to accomplish stewardship work. It was understood that the amount of money needed was way more than what could be accessed at this time. Concepts for developing creative ways to solve this issue were discussed. Jim Mann attended this meeting, and he has agreed to continue meeting with the task force. She stated that Harry Drucker, Bruce Boyd, Fran Harty have also been working with the task force and providing excellent suggestions.

She stated that a consistent finding has been the need to approach different categories of land in different ways. Local solutions would be beneficial. When local groups of landowners pull together to find local sources of funding, there tends to be greater success rather than trying to do something that applies state-wide. Getting foundations to fund work for state-owned land by state employees was a tremendous challenge, so a different way to look at that needed to be found. The possibility of having a "Friends of the Nature Preserve" type of group for stewardship has been discussed. She asked staff for input of information about other groups that have been effective in this area to channel 501(c)(3) type money for stewardship work in the event the Commission could convince a foundation to fund work on state land, land owned by municipalities, park districts, and forest preserve districts. One of the ideas that caught most people's attention was an idea that came from Fran Harty. He suggested having a meeting of all of the landowners within the Nature Preserves system and landowners who have potential to have land brought into the system. She asked staff for input on what should be on the agenda for

this meeting. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss ideas on how the landowner could do stewardship on their land. Topics could be educating the landowner on how to do their own stewardship, how to find contractors to do the work, discussions on how other landowners were accomplishing the work, and anything else that would be helpful to the landowners to get them to take responsibility of their site. It would be a forum to share ideas.

Chair Rosenthal stated that she has heard from a number of people about foundations around the state that might have the ability and the interest to fund projects. Some of the larger foundations have funded land acquisition work. The concept of not dedicating new parcels unless there was a plan for stewardship had also been discussed. Another concept being discussed was the possibility of the IDNR charging fees for services such as a fee for developing a management plan. That would depend on the landowners' resources. The collection of fines in areas where the Commission has had to do defense work has been discussed.

Randy Heidorn stated that a discussion was also had on how the Commission structures its policy of doing stewardship. The ultimate responsibility for stewardship rests with the landowner. Now that we have more sites and less money, it is getting more difficult to fund the stewardship and do the work on the sites. Since the Commission is housed within the IDNR, we have often confused the fact that when we manage land owned by the IDNR, we are serving as the landowner. When it comes to places owned by forest preserve districts, park districts, and other public entities, we need to determine what their capabilities are to do the stewardship and funding for that service. He stated that the Commission needs to prioritize this service and realize that it is ultimately the landowners' responsibility. As pointed out by Commissioner Covington, the INPC is essentially an easement holding organization, and it is the Commission's job to enforce and maintain those easements.

Chair Rosenthal asked staff if they felt landowners would attend a landowner meeting, what would be of benefit to them at such a meeting, what would help staff do their job, and what the anticipated response would be from their landowners regarding charging for certain services. She also asked for input from the staff regarding asking landowners to do stewardship on their sites and getting more volunteer stewards throughout the State.

Steven Byers suggested that the landowners could be updated on the progress of the INAI update and the work done by Marlin Bowles to show that when sites are being managed, they maintain their biological diversity and richness. He felt that developing the agenda was a critical component of the success of a landowners meeting. He stated that it may be beneficial to have one meeting in northern Illinois, one in central Illinois, and one in southern Illinois to make it more convenient for landowners to attend.

Don McFall stated that it would be beneficial to do some sort of recognition of a particular deed or case study done by a landowner or landowners at each of the meetings.

Commissioner Riddell stated that a landowner or group of landowners could be asked to give a presentation on what they have been doing to manage a site.

Kim Roman stated that the landowners could be approached with the idea that they could set up an endowment to help with the cost of stewardship of their land.

Mr. Byers stated that a survey could be sent out to the landowners to get a sense of what they would like to see covered at such a meeting.

Chair Rosenthal stated that it may also be beneficial to educate the landowners on the relationship of the NAAF dollars and the work that the Commission is able to do on their properties. This could help with pursuing funding from other sources and referendums throughout the state.

Commissioner Covington stated that the target area for the landowners meeting would be the 7.5% of private sector landowners.

Chair Rosenthal asked staff if they were seeing the stewardship funding gaps being primarily with the IDNR lands or were they seeing it with the private landowners.

Angella Moorehouse stated that there were serious gaps within the IDNR and on the private side. The park districts and municipal owners were finding money even though they were struggling. She stated that some of the private landowners were not physically or financially able to do the stewardship. In the last five years she has seen an increase in the willingness of a landowner to hire a contractor to do some of the work. She stated that volunteer groups were great, but a coordinator was needed.

Debbie Newman stated that she agreed with Ms. Moorehouse's comments. She also felt it was important that the Commission not lose sight of the flexibility. She has landowners that live out of state, and they had not been to their property in several years. INPC staff may be the only ones looking over the sites for the absentee landowner. She stated that if the Commission has a vested interest in the property, it should assist with that stewardship.

Ms. Newman stated that she did not have enough contractors in her area. The contractors that were there were so busy that they were turning people away. It was also difficult to find a contractor that would do prescribed burning. If the responsibility of stewardship was placed solely on the landowner, the burning would be severely decreased, at least in the southern part of the state.

John Nelson stated that in McHenry County, there were non-profit organizations that do stewardship and management on dedicated city lands. They were looking to expand this service to other municipalities of the County.

Chair Rosenthal stated that it would be beneficial to have someone from a non-profit organization give a presentation at the landowners meeting to explain how that partnership works.

Ms. Newman stated that it may be more beneficial in her area to have an informal landowners meeting so landowners could talk with each other. She stated that this worked when she did a 40th anniversary picnic.

Chair Rosenthal stated that she would like to see staff time used in developing management plans and advising landowners on how they could best take care of the property rather than doing the actual eradication of invasive species. If there was something that could be delegated to someone with lesser expertise in that area, it could be handled by a volunteer stewardship team that has been trained.

Commissioner Keating stated that second and third generation landowners often do not live around the area. He asked if staff was finding that to be true.

Bob Edgin stated that was exactly the problem he faced in his area. He stated that it may be difficult to get the landowners in his area to attend a landowners meeting because most of his landowners are elderly and on a fixed income. They would have no way to provide an endowment. The younger landowners would have to take time off work to attend a meeting.

Chair Rosenthal stated that she was looking at this from the standpoint that the landowners who have the ability and resources to do the stewardship and management of their property should be asked to do that. Each site has to be looked at individually to determine what could be done.

Mr. Edgin stated that there have been numerous attempts by TNC and other groups to recruit volunteers in his area, but that has been unsuccessful. Many of the counties in his area have less than 16,000 people.

Mr. McFall stated that when the land gets passed to the second and third generations, the IDNR usually gets a letter asking it to buy the property.

Randy Heidorn asked what would be the possibilities of using a 501(c)(3) organization to get a grant from a foundation to fund those kinds of situations.

Commissioner Covington stated that it could be done, but a separate support organization would have to be set up in order to seek funding from foundations. The worry would be that if the fund were to be set up within the IDNR, it could be used for other purposes.

Ms. Roman stated that there were several landowners in northern Illinois that had the resources to bequeath money for stewardship of their site.

Commissioner Covington stated that the Commission was unique in the land trust world because it does not ask for an endowment. The Commission needs to remain flexible in this aspect because there are those landowners who are not able to give an endowment in order to protect their land.

Commissioner Riddell asked staff if landowners would donate money if they knew it went into a general stewardship fund that covered sites throughout the state.

Ms. Roman stated that she felt it would be possible.

Mr. Byers stated that many of the sites he brings before the Commission are owned by county forest preserve districts, and these sites will be taken care of. He stated that he also felt that

people were excited about what the Commission does, and they wanted to support the Commission. He felt that one could make a compelling case for a 501(c)(3) organization. He did not feel people would donate to that if they thought the money would go to IDNR land or other publically owned land. He felt that it should be made very clear that the funds would go to only privately owned sites where there was a dire need for stewardship.

Ms Roman stated that there could be an annual meeting made up of the Chair of the Commission, INPC staff, and a landowner. That panel would be responsible for dispersing the funding for that year.

Commissioner Payne stated that she has had a discussion with her husband about setting up an endowment for their three land and water reserves. He has been doing the bulk of the management and stewardship on his own. She stated that Mary Kay Solecki has provided her expertise and chemicals. They viewed this as a partnership. She stated that she did not want to lose sight of this when talking with landowners about the endowment.

Commissioner Riddell stated that any correspondence to landowners would have to be customized to take into account the different circumstances of the landowner. There may need to be a series of small meetings with a targeted group of landowners. The Commission needs to make sure to protect those relationships that have been cultivated over the years. She stated that she was also hearing that there was enthusiasm for having some kind of 501(c)(3) organization so willing landowners or donors could give money.

Jim Herkert stated that if set criteria could be developed on how the money would be spent, other funding could be leveraged. The need on state land was always going to be more than what was available. Matching dollars would be something that could be attractive to foundations.

Fran Harty stated that there were a lot of existing venues that could receive grants, and state stewardship money could be used as a match for that. There were creative ways to do this. There were 43 land trusts. Half of them were in the collar counties and the other half were spread out throughout the state.

Mary Kay Solecki stated that she would like to see the money be available to public lands because she has one conservation district that owns six nature preserves and land and water reserves. That particular conservation district does not do any of the management or stewardship. A volunteer group does the work for them, and she finds the contractors.

She stated that Save the Prairie Society set up a natural areas rescue fund. That fund operated state-wide to acquire land. She stated that there were land trusts already available that may be willing to help the Commission with the stewardship. When funds are solicited, the land trusts should also be solicited.

Chair Rosenthal stated that after hearing from staff, she has gained insight on what is occurring in the different parts of the state.

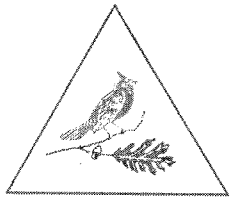
John Rogner thanked the Commission for its work, and he thought about George Fell's idea of the nature preserves system. A nature preserve dedication was the highest form of land

protection under state law. This forever refutes the notion that nature left alone is somehow unused. The Commission has been working with that as a foundation. He stated that his first job was with the Illinois Department of Conservation as a youth conservation corps supervisor. He supervised high school students doing projects at Mississippi Palisades State Park. He stated that he had some of his earliest involvement with nature preserves at that time. He stated that he would do his best to support the Commission's work and support the system. He looked forward to working with the Commissioners and staff.

208-19) Adjournment

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Covington, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217/785-8686



**Illinois
Nature
Preserves
Commission**

Exhibit A

memorandum

To: Commissioners
From: Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn
Date: April 28, 2011
Subject: Staff Report for the 208th Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

I. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Operations:

- A. Deborah Stone resigned as Executive Director of the INPC to take a new position with Cook County. John Rogner, Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), will serve as the liaison between the IDNR and the INPC.
- B. Randy Heidorn and Don McFall of the IDNR conducted interviews of candidates for the Natural Heritage Resident Program. Three INPC residents will begin May 1, 2011. An additional three will be working with the Division of Natural Heritage. Two additional Natural Heritage Resident positions were not filled, and an additional set of interviews is planned for this spring.
- C. An INPC Task Force meeting was held at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago on April 15, 2011. Randy Heidorn, with the assistance of former Executive Director Stone and Chair Rosenthal, prepared documents and staffed the meeting.
- D. Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal, and Jenny Skufca participated in the review of and meeting to rank Wildlife Preservation Fund proposals.
- E. Jenny Skufca:
 - 1. Coordinated the scheduling and delivery of the INPC Photographic Exhibition. The exhibit will be delivered in June to the Lost Valley Visitors Center, McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), for display from early July until late October. The photo exhibit will be available for viewing during the INPC's 209th Meeting at this location.
 - 2. Provided support to the volunteer conducting the statewide digital mapping effort to update INPC site maps utilizing legal descriptions.
- F. Mary Kay Solecki reviewed all protection proposals and nature preserve (NP) and land and water reserve (LWR) documents for the 208th INPC Meeting and provided staff support concerning dedications and new procedures for registering LWRs.

II. Training, Presentations, and Meetings Attended:

- A. Kim Roman and Randy Heidorn continued to administer the INPC's Face Book page.
- B. Randy Heidorn:
 - 1. Prepared an update on certification of prescribed burn managers for the Annual Prescribed Fire Conference. This presentation was then given by Tom Wilson of the IDNR.
 - 2. Attended a National Wildfire Coordinating Group Incident Training Specialist class held at the Illinois Fire Safety Institute in Champaign.
 - 3. Attended a Board of Directors meeting of the Natural Areas Association in Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Heidorn currently serves as the vice president of the Association.
- C. Kelly Neal attended the Wild Things Conference for volunteers and stewards regarding ecological restoration techniques and monitoring.
- D. INPC staff participated in CPR, First Aid, and Ethics trainings.
- E. Steven Byers:
 - 1. Attended a Green Infrastructure Conference sponsored by The Conservation Fund at the National Conservation Training Center. He also attended meetings regarding Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Plan and the proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge.
 - 2. Attended a Friends of Hackmatack meeting for supporters and provided a PowerPoint presentation.
 - 3. Attended meetings with McHenry County, a local watershed group, and a green-infrastructure planning group.
- F. Angella Moorehouse:

1. Gave a presentation on control of invasive species in grassland habitats for the Cooperative Extension Service/Rock Island Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)/Quad Cities Natural Areas Guardians.
 2. Participated in a panel discussion on the Prairie as Landscape for a brown bag lunch session hosted by the Western IllinTV station in the Quad Cities concerning the clean-up efforts at the Cox-Freeland Cemetery located within Elton E. Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge NP.
- G. Tom Lerczak:
1. Attended the annual meeting of Friends of the Sangamon Valley, an INPC conservation partner.
 2. Attended a herbicide workshop given by UAP Distribution, Inc.
 3. Led a field trip to Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP for the Illinois Audubon Society.
 4. Led a field trip to Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR.
- H. Mary Kay Solecki:
1. Participated in a meeting of the Vermilion River Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) where an action plan for the Vermilion River COA was finalized and approved.
 2. Participated in a panel discussion on whether or how to include threatened and endangered plant species in restoration seed mixes and other translocations at the Wild Things Conference.
 3. Received the Outstanding Friend of Conservation Award at annual meeting of Champaign SWCD for contributions over 10 years toward Barnhart Prairie.
- I. Debbie Newman:
1. Gave a presentation at the OKAW Land Trust Annual Meeting regarding controlling invasives in the forest.
 2. Had meetings with Clifftop and the Salt Lick Point LWR Committee to prepare for the BioBlitz and Festival of Bluffs at Salt Lick Point LWR.
 3. Met with *Outdoor Illinois* Staff for an article on the Salt Lick Point LWR BioBlitz and wrote an article for *Outdoor Illinois* on the Helicopter Honeysuckle Survey that she conducted.
 4. Created two new interpretive signs for Salt Lick Point LWR.

III. Inventory and Monitoring:

- A. John Nelson provided the Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) update team with landowner contact information for sites in Stephenson, Ogle, and JoDaviess counties.
- B. Tom Lerczak :
 1. Conducted a red-headed woodpecker survey at Walden West LWR and Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP.
 2. Reviewed nomination packets for an INAI update for Area 5.
- C. Debbie Newman conducted site surveillance and threatened and endangered species monitoring on six sites.
- D. Bob Edgin assisted the INAI update staff with ground surveys in Wayne, Clay and Jefferson counties and woody vegetation sampling on five sites.

IV. Protection Program:

- A. Staff met with landowners and managers to plan and draft protection proposals that are on the agenda of the 208th Meeting.
- B. John Nelson:
 1. Discussed, via phone, protection programs with five landowners in Ogle, Kane, and Winnebago counties.
 2. Drafted two LWR proposals for the IDNR.
 3. Sent follow-up informational contact letters to two landowners of INAI sites in McHenry County.
 4. Drafted one registration agreement and one legal description for the IDNR.
- C. Steven Byers:
 1. Met with the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC), John Rogner of the IDNR, and Valerie Spale of the Salt Creek Greenways Association to provide an overview, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration at Wolf Road Prairie NP.
 2. Discussed the final approval of a small, privately-owned tract as an addition to Skokie River NP with landowners and representatives of Lake Forest Open Lands.
 3. Corresponded with the Elgin Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding the significance of Trout Park River's Edge and the need to protect the site as a LWR, as well as the importance of establishing a natural areas management line-item in the budget for Trout Park NP and Bluff Spring Fen NP.
 4. Continued discussions with Openlands regarding an opportunity to dedicate a portion of the Lake Michigan shoreline.
 5. Had ongoing discussions with the MCCD regarding opportunities to enroll District sites into the NP System; possible sites include Alden Sedge Meadow and additions to Elizabeth Lake NP.

6. Had discussions with the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) regarding enrolling of a portion of Lakewood Forest Preserve and Berkely Prairie into the NP System.
 7. Met with the Liberty Prairie Conservancy and a consultant with Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie to secure protection of an adjacent 20-acre tract and to resolve the status of eight-acre tract located adjacent to the site that received preliminary approval for dedication from the INPC.
 8. Met with staff of the MCCD for an update on HUM prairies.
- D. Kim Roman:
1. Met with owners of a remnant prairie near Goose Lake Prairie NP to discuss protection and management options.
 2. Drafted a NP addition proposal for three tracts adjacent to Miller-Anderson Woods NP.
 3. Provided a letter of support for an Illinois Clean Energy funding opportunity for an open space/natural areas protection plan within the Lower Fox River COA to the Conservation Foundation.
- E. Angella Moorehouse:
1. Maintained landowner contact with owners of 15 sites enrolled in INPC programs.
 2. Contacted owners of four unprotected natural areas and two potential natural areas.
- F. Tom Lerczak:
1. Established landowner contacts for 11 natural areas, NPs, LWRs, or Natural Heritage Landmarks (NHL).
 2. Reviewed a LWR proposal for an INPC staff member.
- G. Mary Kay Solecki contacted the owner of a portion of Salt Fork of Vermilion River INAI site who subsequently enrolled a five-acre tract as Luke Woods NHL in Champaign County.
- H. Debbie Newman conducted one landowner contact of an unprotected INAI site in Monroe County.
- I. Bob Edgin:
1. Met with an auction service to discuss protection terms for Schulte Woods NP prior to tract being offered for sale at auction. No acceptable bids were received, and the ownership of property did not change.
 2. Contacted owners of five unprotected INAI sites to discuss protection options.
 3. Met or corresponded with owners of five sites in INPC programs.

I. Land Acquisition:

- A. John Nelson advised the IDNR Division of Realty regarding remaining land acquisition priorities at an INPC site in McHenry County.
- B. Tom Lerczak facilitated communications between an INAI landowner and a non-governmental organization.
- C. Debbie Newman:
 1. Facilitated discussion between the owner of an unprotected INAI site in Monroe County and a potential conservation buyer.
 2. Worked extensively with conservation groups, conservation buyers, foundations, and landowners on acquisition projects of four INAI sites, totaling 1010 acres, in Monroe and St. Clair counties.

II. Defense Program:

- A. Jenny Skufca:
 1. Responded to three reviews for the IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP) and 11 reviews for the IDNR's consultation program.
 2. Submitted six Class III Groundwater petition packets to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), including George B. Fell NP, Spring Grove Fen NP, Goose Lake Prairie NP, Trout Park NP, Cotton Creek Marsh NP, and Gladstone Fen NP and INAI (which encompasses Boger Bog NP). She also attended an IDNR's Contract Committee meeting to support the Illinois State Geological Survey's (ISGS) contract for the preparation of future Class III petitions.
 3. Participated in a meeting with the Manager of Regulatory Compliance for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives regarding the statewide protection of INPC sites when the cooperatives are conducting vegetative management within power line corridors. Discussion included better signing of shared boundaries, the dispersal of GIS boundary maps to all cooperatives and their contractors, and the drafting of a guidance document outlining preferred management procedures.
- B. Kelly Neal responded to one CERP review.
- C. Angella Moorehouse:
 1. Coordinated with Ameren Illinois utility company and the landowner (IDNR – Siloam Springs State Park) regarding the request for brush clearing and herbicide treatment within Fall Creek Gorge LWR and future access to the site for emergency utility repairs.

2. Assisted site staff in negotiations with adjacent landowners regarding stewardship issues related to the Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Project and a potential development of an inholding within the eastern border of Black Hawk Forest NP.
- D. Tom Lerczak:
1. Investigated the power line right-of-way clearing that allegedly encroached upon Meredosia Hill Prairie NP. The area cleared was within the legal right-of-way. INPC staff are working with electric cooperative staff to coordinate future work.
 2. Provided suggestions for changes to a permanent easement that is part of the Sheridan Road bridge project at Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR.
- E. Mary Kay Solecki worked with IDNR Consultation staff in review of potential impacts from the proposed Allerton Park bridge replacement and grain bin removal work at Upper Sangamon River LWR.
- F. Bob Edgin reported to the landowner and appropriate IDNR Conservation Police Officer an incident of trespass and illegal turkey baiting on an INAI site.
- G. Threats to Sites within INPC programs:
1. **Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County – John Nelson, Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Salt storage. Up to 50,000 tons of road de-icing salt is being stored on property owned by Bluff City Materials (BCM) and located immediately south of the NP.
 - b. Threat: At concentrations above 45 mg/L, chlorides (salt) are a known pollutant that can alter the chemical composition of groundwater that sustains fen wetland systems and are documented to promote a shift from a diverse assemblage of plants to monotypic stands of salt-tolerant plants.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. Based on the threat of surface and groundwater contamination from the salt storage piles, the IEPA submitted a referral to the Attorney General's Office. An Agreed Order was entered in the Circuit Court of Cook County on February 25, 2011, stipulating that BCM must move the salt to a paved area and maintain a cover over it by March 11, 2011. BCM must also build a permanent salt storage facility that will keep the product from being dispersed by wind or water.
 2. **Volo Bog NP, Lake County – John Nelson**
 - a. Issue: A volunteer noticed a foul odor emanating from a specific area on the south side of the NP.
 - b. Threat: Potential contamination suspected from blow-out of a deteriorated drain tile.
 - c. Status: New. IDNR staff and INPC staff investigated. A nearby waste-water treatment plant was also visually inspected for possible winter land-based application of lagoon gray water which is possibly in hydrologic connection with drain tile. The IEPA was notified and is investigating.
 3. **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) intends to widen Route 22. The proposal for dedication of this site provided for this construction. Plans include construction of a berm in order to reduce the width of the road project.
 - b. Threat: Indirect threat posed by sedimentation and subsequent increase in reed canary grass, which threatens the long-term viability of federally-threatened orchid.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff reviewed IDOT's biological assessment that determined that the road-widening project will impact the orchids. A meeting will be conducted with IDNR, IDOT, INPC, and Endangered Species Protection Board staff to discuss potential for IDOT's purchase of the NP.
 4. **Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Adjacent landowner, Knollwood Golf Club, dredged a golf course pond and piped sediment into the NP.
 - b. Threat: Direct and indirect impact on aquatic resources/ephemeral ponds in the NP and at Knollwood Golf Club. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that wetlands are "jurisdictional." The Knollwood Golf Club has prepared a remedial action plan, a portion of which has been implemented.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff attended a meeting co-hosted by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the USACE with representatives of LCFPD and Knollwood Golf Club. The Knollwood Golf Club was directed to implement a remedial action plan and begin discussions leading to permanent protection and stewardship of a ten-acre tract owned by the Knollwood Golf Club that is adjacent to the NP.
 5. **Sterne's Fen NP, McHenry County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: An adjacent landowner has requested that the Crystal Lake Park District review the hydrology at the site. The landowner is concerned that altered hydrology has led to the increased incidence and severity of flooding.

- b. Threat: Fen wetlands are sensitive to changes in hydrology/surface water. Fen plant communities are sensitive to altered surface water chemistry, temperatures, and frequently increased amounts of pollutants.
 - c. Status: Resolved. A review of the files revealed earlier letters relaying concern by the INPC and the ISGS regarding entry of surface water into the fen from under the bike trail. The Crystal Lake Park District, in response to those letters, has notified the adjacent landowner that the District will not allow surface water to be diverted into the NP.
- 6. **Elm Road Woods NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: A large sports complex that will require extensive earth-moving is proposed upstream and adjacent to the NP.
 - b. Threat: Site is vulnerable to changes in surface hydrology and sedimentation associated with the project.
 - c. Status: New. IDNR Consultation staff and INPC staff are coordinating with the NP landowner, LCFPD, to identify threats and provide recommendations to eliminate/minimize the threat posed by the project.
- 7. **Bliss Woods NP, Kane County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: An unknown amount of lead shot has been deposited in the NP by years of trap/skeet shooting at the nearby Aurora Sportsman's Club.
 - b. Threat: Lead shot poses a threat to humans and the environment.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Consultation staff and INPC staff will review remediation plans being prepared for both the Aurora Sportsman's Club and the NP. The intent of this review is to evaluate remediation strategies and to support the intent of the landowner, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, to minimize impact to the NP.
- 8. **Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: 88 white oak trees were removed from within the LWR.
 - b. Threat: Direct impact to the LWR. Unauthorized removal of trees, over 4,000 feet of up to 18-inch ruts were created throughout the interior of the LWR, and signs were removed.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Conservation Police have completed their investigation. The Nature Conservancy, as landowner, has filed a civil lawsuit. INPC staff is awaiting action by the IDNR Office of Legal Counsel.
- 9. **Nenawakwa LWR, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The landowner discovered a grading encroachment within the LWR.
 - b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion into the LWR, including tire ruts and a large graded area leading to the neighbor's property.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. The INPC's settlement proposal presented on behalf of the LWR landowner to the McDonough County State's Attorney, was not accepted by the responsible party. The trial date was set for April 25, 2011.
- 10. **Short Fork Seep NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The landowner discovered that herbicide associated with power line vegetative maintenance had been used within the NP
 - b. Threat: Direct impact to flora in the NP causing damage to the vegetation and soils within the high quality portion of seep/sedge meadow of the NP.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is awaiting action by the IDNR Office of Legal Counsel.
- 11. **Carpenter Park NP, Sangamon County – Tom Lerczak, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Vandals painted graffiti on the sandstone outcrop and various other natural and unnatural features of the NP.
 - b. Threat: Introduction of material to the NP.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is working closely with staff of the landowner, Springfield Park District, to repair the damage and to develop strategies to deter future occurrences.
- 12. **Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Champaign County – Mary Kay Solecki**
 - a. Issue: The wind turbine proposed by the University of Illinois on adjacent property will potentially cast shadow flicker on the NP.
 - b. Threat: Shadow flicker and noise have the potential to disrupt communities within the NP.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is working with IDNR Consultation staff and the Barnhart Prairie Restoration Board to mitigate impacts of the proposed wind turbine. A field visit was held in

association with IDNR Consultation and Illinois Natural History Survey staff to look for possible Franklin ground squirrel burrows. Several potential burrows were located.

13. DesPain Wetlands LWR, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca

- a. Issue: A neighbor to the LWR had a survey done and posted boundaries on the LWR. The neighbor was claiming an additional 30-50' for his property.
- b. Threat: The neighbor's survey contradicts the LWR landowner's previous survey, suggesting encroachment into a LWR.
- c. Status: Resolved. The INPC submitted a certified, receipt-requested letter on March 14, 2011, to the neighbor informing him that the survey we hold will serve as legal boundary until such time that the neighbor can provide evidence to the contrary. The correspondence also relayed that any modifications within what we believe to be the legal boundary would be a violation of the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. Delivery confirmed on March 17, 2011.

VII. Stewardship Program:

A. Stewardship Planning:

1. Kelly Neal:
 - a. Reviewed 13 management schedules, six unscheduled management activities and three management related CERPs at INPC sites.
 - b. Participated in meetings with the IDNR Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) staff and Office of Strategic Services to plan for an electronic ORC permit management system which would include INPC permitting.
2. John Nelson continued to monitor and advise the Yonder Prairie NP Restoration Work Group. This group was organized by the Land Conservancy of McHenry County to plan and implement a large-scale restoration at the site over a five-year period. An environmental contractor has been conducting a large-scale tree and brush clearing during the winter.
3. Steven Byers had ongoing discussions with Conservation Foundation staff regarding priorities for allocation of funds held for stewardship at Bluff Spring Fen NP, Trout Park NP, Brewster Creek Fen NP, Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP, Dixie Fromm Briggs Prairie NP, Sterne's Fen NP, and Fox River Fen NP.
4. Kim Roman met with the new director of the Calumet Memorial Park District, the owner of Superior Street Prairie LWR and other INAI sites in the Calumet region and provided the Friends of the Cook County Forest Preserves a letter of support for Sustain Our Great Lakes funding opportunity for stewardship projects in the Calumet region.
5. Tom Lerczak:
 - a. Developed a spring 2011 prescribed burn calendar with Natural Heritage Biologists Tim Kelley, Dean Corgiat, and Mark Phipps.
 - b. Provided recommendations to the Pekin Park District for restoring natural plant communities to a retired agricultural field.
 - c. Met with Friends of McNaughton Park to discuss management options for volunteers at Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR.
 - d. Coordinated the FY11 sign order (various INPC signs and specialty restriction signs), post order, and herbicide order.
6. Mary Kay Solecki created a management agreement template and management plan template for Grand Prairie Friends.
7. Debbie Newman updated management plans for Horse Creek Glade NHL.

- B. Stewardship project implementation:** Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects, including the Hill Prairie Project, funded by Landowners Incentive Program, State Wildlife Grant, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, an IEPA 319 Grant, the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund, Chicago Wilderness Grants, and INPC operations fund. These projects involve meeting with landowners, securing landowner agreements, preparation of grant applications, preparing bid packages, supervising contractors, and assisting in conducting restoration activities. Contractor work included prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, prescribed burn site preparation, and burn crews. Sites where this kind of work occurred include:
1. Area 1 (Nelson): Purchased native seed mixes for multiple protected sites after brush had been cleared.
 2. Area 2 (Byers): Wolf Road Prairie NP, Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie site, and four fen wetlands in Kane and McHenry counties.
 3. Area 3 (Roman): Superior Street Prairie LWR, Bonnie's Prairie NP.

4. Area 5 (Lerczak) Ridgetop Hill Prairie NP, Wiegand Hill Prairie NHL, Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR, and Crevecoeur NP.
 5. Area 6 (Solecki): Sibley Grove NP.
 6. Area 7 (Newman): Eleven INPC sites.
 7. Area 8 (Edgin): Lost Creek Marsh NP, Big Creek Woods Memorial NP, and Beadles Barrens NP.
- C. Land management conducted by staff includes site surveillance, prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, coordinating and working with volunteers, prescribed burn site preparation, and participating in or leading prescribed burns. Sites where this kind of work occurred along with additional management related activities include:
1. Area 1 (Nelson):
 - a. Participated in five prescribed burns at protected sites, acting as burn boss at three of those sites.
 - b. Pine Rock NP, Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP, Yonder Prairie NP, Gladstone Fen NP, Boone Creek Fen NP, Harlem Hills NP, and Pistakee Bog NP.
 2. Area 2 (Byers): Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove NP, Hybernia NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, Forested Fen NHL, and Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie site.
 3. Area 3 (Roman): Participated in prescribed burns at Iroquois County State Wildlife Area LWR (120 acres) and Old Plank Road Prairie NP (10 acres).
 4. Area 4 (Moorehouse): Assisted in prescribed burns at four INPC sites and one state park (potential natural area), totaled 6 burns covering 230 acres.
 5. Area 5 (Lerczak):
 - a. Assisted the IDNR with prescribed burns at Henry Allan Gleason NP and Long Branch Sand Prairie NP and was the burn boss at Wiegand Hill Prairie NHL.
 - b. Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR.
 6. Area 6 (Solecki): Allerton Park INAI site, Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Heartland Pathways, Iroquois County State Wildlife Area LWR, Loda Cemetery Prairie NP, and Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP.
 7. Area 7 (Newman):
 - a. Conducted burns at Salt Lick Point LWR, Blufftop Acres LWR, Buettner Glade/Fults INAI site, Rattlesnake Creek NHL, and assisted with burn at Fults Hill Prairie NP.
 - b. Horse Creek Glade NHL, Columbia Quarry-Sugar Loaf Prairie LWR, Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR, Prairie of the Rock NP, Columbia Quarry-Dupo Prairie LWR, and Salt Lick Point LWR;
 8. Area 8 (Edgin): Led or assisted on 37 burns, totaling 1,331 acres, including: Beall Woods NP, Chauncey Marsh NP, Jasper County Prairie Chicken Sanctuary NP, Marion County Prairie Chicken Sanctuary NP, Ramsey Railroad Prairie NP, Red Hills Woods NP, Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP, Horn Prairie Grove LWR, Lost Creek Marsh LWR, Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR, Prairie Ridge LWR in Jasper and Marion counties, Richard R. and Jean W. Graber Grasslands LWR, Allison Gravel Prairie NHL, Green Prairie NHL, Ramsey Lake State Park, Stephen A. Forbes State Park (two burns 300 acres), Burnside Forest (potential new INAI site), Lawrenceville Airport Wetland (not in an INPC program).

Exhibit B

Illinois Department of Natural Resources report to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission at the 208th meeting, May 3, 2011

Natural Heritage Resident Interns

Six natural heritage resident interns started work with the DNR on May 2. The resident intern is a one-year, paid, full-time position with DNR where students working on a Masters degree in biology gain work experience by assisting Natural Heritage Biologists or Nature Preserves Commission Preservation Specialists in the field. Ray Geroff, Stephanie Ervin and Russell Heinrichs will work with Angella Moorehouse, Bob Edgin and John Nelson. Hannah Kalk and Michael Blackowics will assist DHBs and Christy Ann Troxell will be in the Springfield office working with the endangered species and database programs. There have been 58 resident interns since the program began in 1993 including Kim Roman and Bob Edgin. The intern program is funded by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund.

Invasive Species Awareness Month

Governor Pat Quinn issued a proclamation declaring May as "Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month" in order to increase public awareness of the problems with invasive species in Illinois. The Invasive Species Awareness Month Committee established a website including a list of invasive species in Illinois, suggestions on what you can do to control the spread of invasives and a calendar of events. Those planning an event can submit details to the Natural Heritage Division for inclusion in the calendar.

Pecumsaugan Creek – Blackball Mines Nature Preserve – Indiana bat research

A major research project to substantially increase our knowledge of the spring migratory movements of endangered Indiana bats that winter at Blackball Mines Nature Preserve in LaSalle County was carried out this spring. This nature preserve supports Illinois' second most significant wintering population of Indiana bats. The research used a combination of aircraft and ground stations to track marked female Indiana bats for several days after they exited Blackball Mines following winter hibernation. The research is intended to inform risk assessments associated with existing and future wind energy development and was funded by Invenergy corporation. Knowing details of the migratory behavior of Indiana bats at Blackball Mines could help both the wind industry and regulatory agencies, including the Nature Preserves Commission, better understand the risk of bats being killed in collisions with wind turbines. Kim Roman was one of the biologists who assisted with this project.



**ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES
PROTECTION BOARD**

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271, (217) 785-8687; FAX (217) 785-2438

**Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board report
for the May 3, 2011**

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission meeting

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board held its 149th meeting on February 25, 2011. Board actions and other items from that meeting included:

1. ESBP Member Appointments

The Board currently has full membership, so there was no activity since the last INPC meeting.

2. ESPB Letters of Support for State Wildlife Grant Funding

Ms. Mankowski wrote and sent to Senators Durbin and Kirk ESPB letters of support for State Wildlife Grant funding. The U.S. House of Representatives passed Continuing Resolution #1 for FFY11 in which the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program was zeroed-out and the hope was that the resolution would not also be passed by the Senate. Illinois usually receives about \$2.0 – 2.5 million dollars annually from the federal program.

3. Meetings and Publications

Ms. Mankowski participates in IDNR ORC twice-monthly and Natural Heritage monthly administrative meetings.

Ms. Mankowski attended an April 14, 2011 meeting of the Chicago Wilderness Wildlife Task Force at Brookfield Zoo to review plans for developing an Illinois Recovery Plan for Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) and answer questions from stakeholders.

Ms. Mankowski attended the May 3, 2011 meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in Alton, Illinois, and presented a report on activities of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with ORC Director, Jim Herkert, to meet on May 12, 2011 with staff of the Shedd Aquarium to discuss opportunities for partnership involving endangered and threatened aquatic animal monitoring and recovery.

Ms. Mankowski posted to the Board's webpage a PDF of the recently completed *Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution – Volume 4 – 2009 and 2010 Changes* document. This is part of a series of publications that provides a brief species account for each Illinois endangered and threatened species.

4. Coordination with IDNR and INPC:

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the Endangered Species Program ORC, Division of Wildlife ORC, Impact Assessment Section OREP, Office of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:

Exhibit C

- Coordinated with IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, Tara Kieninger, in developing contracts and proposals for projects intended to update historic endangered and threatened animal element occurrence records in the database.
- Assisted IDNR Chief Legal Counsel in preparing a presentation regarding Illinois endangered and threatened species law and information regarding individual species.
- Provided assistance to IDNR Office of Legal Counsel in responding to a FOIA request for ESPB 2009 public hearing materials.
- Assisted IDNR Chief Legal Counsel in preparing materials for OLC correspondence regarding potential project impacts upon the Spotted Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus conanti*).
- Continued project management of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) recovery planning and implementation State Wildlife Grant project (T-35-P-1). In 2009 and 2010, the recovery team (Dr. Jeff Walk, Terry Esker, Maggie Cole, Mark Alessi, and Anne Mankowski) checked over 59 nesting occurrences/boxes and placed 38 new boxes. Surveys during 2010 resulted in documenting 21 active nests in 17 counties. Activities for CY2011 will include working with IDNR Natural Heritage staff in Regions 4 and 5 and with a volunteer group in southwestern Illinois and another volunteer group in central Illinois led by researchers from Illinois Wesleyan University and Illinois State University.
- Coordinated with IDNR and INPC staff, in reviewing a proposed IDOT IL Rt 22 project involving an Illinois Nature Preserve and a population of Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*).
- Provided IDNR Office of Public Services with review of two articles for the Outdoor Illinois magazine; one about the Rice Rat (*Oryzomys palustris*) and one about the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*).
- Provided recommendations to IDNR regarding proposed head-starting and translocation of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrepenne ornata*) by USFWS staff relative to the ESPB Policy for Translocation of Endangered and Threatened Animals.
- Provided recommendations to IDNR regarding proposed head-starting of Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) by Forest Preserve District of DuPage County staff.
- In coordination with IDNR Wildlife Resources Regional Administrator, Dan Ludwig, began planning for development of a recovery planning team and hiring a contractor to prepare an Illinois Recovery Plan for Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). The production of a recovery plan will follow the IDNR ORC recovery planning process with a final plan being approved by the IDNR and ESPB.
- Assisted IDNR Natural Heritage field staff with questions regarding management and potential related take of rock chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*).
- Provided assistance to Natural Heritage staff regarding bald eagle population and de-listing information for use in planning for an USACE project at Rice Lake SFWA.
- Assisted IDNR with review of Wildlife Preservation Fund project proposals.
- No incidental take authorizations were submitted by the IDNR to the Board for review and comment during the last quarter.
- Fielded and referred 15 requests to IDNR for E&T consultation, incidental take, data, permits, etc.
- Directly responded to 68 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies.

5. Coordination with other Agencies

- Ms. Mankowski continues working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners on a draft of a *Decurrent False Aster (Boltonia decurrens – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement/Management Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains*.
- Ms. Mankowski met with Illinois Department of Transportation, INPC, and IDNR staff to discuss a proposed IDOT IL Rt 22 project involving an Illinois Nature Preserve and a population of Eastern

Exhibit C

Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*). Ms. Mankowski will coordinate review and recommendations with the INPC.

- Ms. Mankowski provided feedback to Forest Preserve District of Dupage County staff about information necessary in preparing a proposal for translocating Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) relative to the *ESPB Policy for Translocation of Endangered and Threatened Animals*.
- Ms. Mankowski met with Illinois Natural History Survey staff to discuss Board involvement in the IDNR Incidental Take Authorization process.
- Ms. Mankowski provided recommendations to IDNR/INHS/USFWS regarding potential propagation and translocation of Illinois listed mussel species.

6. Field Work

- Assisted IDNR Wildlife Resources staff with prescribed burn of 465 acres at Green River SWA in Lee County.

7. 150th meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

The 150th meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board will be at 10:00 A.M. on May 13, 2011 at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.